

HARRY MATHIESON

> I shall try to give you a brief resume of Harry and my experience
> that awful day 12/7/41. Harry and I were very close and we had pretty
> much the same watches that day so I will be including him in my resume.
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> We had the same watch schedule as I had . He was in the EVAPORATORS
> AND I WAS IN THE ICE MACHINE ROOM on that week end. We had the 4 to 8
so to speak. We were both relieved ten to fifteen minutes early so as to be
> ready for the 8 o'clock liberty boat to go ashore. we were both going in to
> the engineers shower when the general alarm went off. The officer of the
> deck came on the inter com and announced general quarters. as we were
> bare naked we didn't have time to go back down to our steaming station to get
> proper attire we went directly to our battle stations. My station was in the
> machine shop and Harry was in the EVAPORATORS. The chief in the evaporator
> told to him go up to repair 8 as that was no place for him. He passed right
> by me in the machine shop on his way to repair 8. as he was going forward he
> went on the starboard side of the ship, when the first torpedoes hit he
> described it to me the dust from the explosion delayed him as he went forward by
> the time he got to repair 8 the ship was going over and he didn't get a
> firm feeling as to where he was as it was pitch black . As he made is way
> out of their and was going up through the escape hatch there were two other
> sailors ahead of him and as he tried to go through the hatch there were
> other arms grabbing at his legs. He had to shake them loose and when the ship
> rolled over he found himself submerged and was seeking air .his head came
> up in an air pocket there were three other sailors in the same pocket after
> about an hour he decided to swim under water to see if he could find away
> out. He ran into the breach of a five inch broad side gun and started out
> along the barrel when he run in the hawsers that were used to tie the ship up
> and was scared so he returned back to where he came from. When he bumped
> into their legs they pulled him up. They discussed what he learned so two of
> them left and made there way out, he never saw them again. Then he left as the
> air was getting very stale the remaining sailor was crying as he said he
> didn't know how to swim. Harry made his way out and he said his lungs were at
> the breaking point when he broke to the surface . A whale boat came by
> and took him ashore to Ford Island.